

***Thelypodium sagittatum*** (Nutt. Ex Torr. & Gray) Endl.  
Ex Walp. **ssp. *sagittatum***  
arrow thelypody  
Brassicaceae (Mustard Family)

**Status:** State Sensitive

**Rank:** G4TNRS1

**General Description:** Adapted from Hitchcock et al. (1964): *Thelypodium sagittatum* ssp. *sagittatum* is a waxy, freely branched biennial 8 to 28 in. (2-7 dm) tall. The plant may be completely hairless, or have short, stiff hairs at the base. The leaves at the base and the lowest stem leaves are sessile and oblong with a blunt, rounded tip and may have earlike lobes at the base. The inflorescence is flat-topped or convex when young, then elongates up to 14 in. (3.5 dm). The flower stalks are spreading to ascending and 5/32 to 1/2 in. (4-12mm) long. The flower petals are 3/8 to 5/8 in. (10-16 mm) long, light to deep violet-purple, slender, and oblong. The bracts beneath the petals are pinkish-lavender to purplish and half the length of the petals. The dry 2-valved fruits are straight, ascending, 1 to 1 1/2 in. (2.5-4 cm) long and about 1/16 in. (1-2 mm) wide.

**Identification Tips:** Other species of *Thelypodium* that occur in Washington are *T. howellii*, *T. integrifolium*, *T. lacinatum*, and *T. lasiophyllum*. *T. howellii* and *T. sagittatum* are the only species in Washington with sessile leaves. *T. howellii* has slightly lobed basal leaves, while *T. sagittatum* has entire basal leaves. No other subspecies of *T. sagittatum* are known from Washington.

**Phenology:** This species is identifiable in Washington from June through July.

**Range:** This species is known from Washington south to Oregon and Nevada, and east to Montana, Wyoming, and Colorado. In Washington it has been found in Douglas, Grant, and Lincoln counties.

**Habitat:** *Thelypodium sagittatum* ssp. *sagittatum* can be found in moist swales in shrub-steppe areas. It occurs in moist, often alkaline meadows that dry by midsummer. Associated species include dense silky-bent (*Apera interrupta*), tall annual willowherb (*Epilobium brachycarpum*), alkali popcorn-flower (*Plagiobothrys*

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Known distribution  
of *Thelypodium sagittatum*  
ssp. *sagittatum*  
in Washington



● Current (1980+)  
○ Historic (older than 1980)

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*leptocladus*), coastal salt-grass (*Distichlis spicata*), and pale spike-rush (*Eleocharis macrostachya*).

**Ecology:** Moist alkaline areas in eastern Washington have a unique assemblage of species that are adapted to the extreme hydrologic variation and soil chemistry of these areas.

**State Status Comments:** This species is known in Washington from less than five occurrences. The limited occurrences and range and rarity even in sites where it is found contribute to this species' status.

**Inventory Needs:** Likely habitat in eastern Washington should be investigated.

**Threats and Management Concerns:** Grazing may be the greatest threat to this species in our area.

**References:**

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest Part 2: Salicaceae to Saxifragaceae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle, WA. 597 pp.